

Xavier University

Exhibit

All Xavier Student Newspapers

Xavier Student Newspapers

2021-08-19

Xavier University Newswire

Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Follow this and additional works at: https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/student_newspaper



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio), "Xavier University Newswire" (2021). *All Xavier Student Newspapers*. 3151.

https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/student_newspaper/3151

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Xavier Student Newspapers at Exhibit. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Xavier Student Newspapers by an authorized administrator of Exhibit. For more information, please contact exhibit@xavier.edu.



XUPD increases campus security

Vandalism and vehicle break-ins inform decision to ramp up surveillance

BY HUNTER ELLIS AND
CHLOE SALVESON
*Multimedia Managing
Editor and Show Manager*

XUPD is taking measures to expand security coverage on campus in response to the vandalism and car break-ins that occurred last spring. “(The department) has been working through the summer on a number of safety initiatives, including enhancing the security camera coverage for our community,” XUPD Chief of Police Robert Warfel stated.

He emphasized that he is not interested in a temporary technological fix that will be outdated in three to five years.

University administrators, including Dr. Colleen Hanycz, president, have been supportive of the comprehensive security coverage enhancement process, according to Warfel.

Warfel explained that XUPD has received bids from four security engineering partners, though one dropped their bid this August. Currently, Silco Fire and Security, Integrated Protection Services (IPS) and Convergent, are offering to upgrade public safety software.

“(Bidders are) providing packages of what they can do, a timeframe and timeline and also the level of integration,” Warfel added. Once a bid is accepted, it must be approved

by the Board of Trustees. According to Warfel, the primary objective of the project will be to increase camera coverage of campus and the area surrounding Xavier. The new cameras will add to the 140 existing security cameras on Xavier grounds.

“We found large greenspace areas that are basically without coverage. Another one is on the perimeters, where we have some of the retail businesses... It’s a place where our students walk, utilize, and are consumers,” Warfel said. “We want to make sure that we have a much better view, literally, of what’s going on in our surroundings.”

The initiative is projected to begin in the coming weeks, towards the middle of the Fall semester.

“In my best case scenario, I’m looking toward the end of September, trying to get (the initiatives) underway,” Warfel said.

Three instances of vandalism by a White nationalist group, which were declared as bias incidents by the university, propelled the push for strengthened security measures. The most recent bias incident took place on July 31.

“Based on some of the incidents from last year, we wanted to enhance our security coverage as a whole,” Warfel said. “(The vandalism was) a factor. That was impactful. It helped highlight where we



Photo courtesy of Xavier University Police Department via Facebook

In response to vandalisms and vehicle break-ins that were prevalent last spring, XUPD is talking to several vendors about increasing security measures on campus, namely adding new surveillance cameras to campus.

had some of the gaps for coverage.” However, Warfel noted that the vandalisms were not the only circumstances that underlined the need for added security. He also cited car break-ins that occurred on campus and around the city the previous academic year.

“We’ve... watched an uptick in a number of criminal activities in many metropolitan areas, and unfortunately, we were not exempt from that,” Warfel added.

According to Warfel, while cameras do not prevent illicit activity from happening on campus, they are a deterrent for criminal acts and aid XUPD during their investigations.

“The best way to (prevent criminal acts) is having more

folks on campus, people sharing suspicious activity, reporting... to XUPD, whether that be through our phone line and dispatch and communications or through the Guardian app,” Warfel voiced.

Student responses to safety surveys also informed XUPD’s plan to expand security measures.

“Towards the end of (last) semester, we sent out a student safety survey. It went to all 5,000 students... 299 students opened it. 260 students completed it,” he said. “There was a blend (of responses). We’re taking that information, putting it into charts and getting consolidated information from that,” Warfel described.

Warfel acknowledged that students are often unaware of safety services provided by police departments. For example, XUPD offers escort services as well as several safety options through their Guardian app.

The Guardian app provides direct connectivity to XUPD to report suspicious or criminal activities. It may be personalized to a student’s device, allowing a student to make anonymous police reports and tracing a student’s location when contacted.

“If you’re concerned about

your safety or where you’re traveling, where you’re going, you can activate that. And so when you message or when you make the phone call or when you hit 911... they will let us know and you show up on a map,” Warfel said.

While the additional security measures are pending approval, XUPD has been working on other ways of serving the community.

Warfel noted that this summer the department partnered with the Holocaust & Humanity Center in Cincinnati, educating their full staff with implicit bias trainings. In addition, all XUPD officers have gone to ABLE training, which trains law enforcement officers to be active bystanders.

XUPD is also making an effort to host more community events, like a Life Skills 101 class this fall, and then launching their first ever Citizens Academy in the spring.

These efforts come with no increase to the department’s budget in at least three years.

“We continue to enhance our capabilities to serve, protect and educate the Xavier University community and welcome your input on areas of concern or opportunities for improvement,” Warfel’s statement concluded.



Photo courtesy of Xavier University Police Department via Facebook

In this issue...

Campus, Page 2

The student center’s bookstore is now home to Xavier merchandise and apparel.



World, Page 3

The Taliban has taken control of Afghanistan after the former president fled the country.



Sports, Page 6

The Bengals show promise this fall, and the Reds hope to clinch a postseason berth.



A&E, Page 7

James Gunn makes a gory comeback in *The Suicide Squad*, his most recent endeavor.



New year, new XU: GSC renovates

Merchandise and apparel added to student center bookstore this summer

By TYLER CLIFTON
Staff Writer

The Gallagher Student Center (GSC) bookstore underwent renovations this summer, bringing with it new items for sale and a look that Gallagher Operations Supervisor Tyler Norris describes as “modern.”

When students now walk into the bookstore, they are greeted by a room that is different in both its design and feel.

Customers are instantly captivated by sleek, silver aisles that offer a bit more space in between them. The first thing visitors are drawn to is a table covered with yearly planners so students can keep all their classwork for the year organized.

After that, you can look through the aisles for some snacks or drinks in the fridges. In this regard, Norris feels that there is more available for students.

“I think that that’s a big benefit for students, being that part of it’s supposed to be a convenience store,” Norris said.

The newly renovated room also includes school supplies that cover a wide range of needs, from pens and notebooks to phone chargers and



News wire photo by Alex Budzynski

The bookstore located on the first floor of Gallagher Student Center received a remodel this summer. It now contains a mix of Xavier merchandise, convenience store items and assorted school supplies. The renovations were completed on Aug. 9, just before students returned.

MacBooks.

A notable addition to the bookstore is the variety of Xavier merchandise available for purchase. These new items include keychains, stickers, pencils, pens, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, hats and more.

According to Norris, these additions were made in part due to the questions employees at GSC were often asked.

“Around basketball games we’d get a lot of questions about where the All for One Shop is,” Norris explained. “People would huff and moan when we told them that it was up the hill.”

He added that, outside of basketball games, many alumni come into the student center for other reasons, ranging from casual visits to marriage

proposals.

According to Norris, talks about renovations are constant, and coming out of the 2020-21 school year, it seemed like an opportune time.

Renovations were completed on Aug. 9, before first-year move-in and Manresa began, allowing new Xavier students to see all that the bookstore has to offer.

For new students, it was a chance to take in some school spirit while current students and alumni can remember what there was before and appreciate the changes that were made.

The GSC bookstore is currently open for business from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday.

XU Students react to masks

By EMILIE KRACIK
Staff Writer

With classes commencing this week, we asked students their thoughts on returning to in-person classes and the updated university mask policy.



“I’m really happy Xavier is allowing us to be back in person, especially because some of my friends still have not been able to be back in person at their schools. I’m perfectly fine with wearing my mask if it allows me to be in the classroom. Having masks just being required indoors and being able to be outside feels like improvement.”

- Ditto Rajpal
Junior finance major



“I feel great that we are back on campus and have in-person classes. I’m enjoying seeing friends again, and I believe a real communal environment fosters better opportunities for everyone. I’m not opposed to wearing my mask, but at the same time, as a vaccinated individual, it feels like I’ve taken the steps necessary to not wear one. While transmission is still possible, it’s significantly lower.”

- Joe Knight
Senior life sciences for business major



“As a senior, I’m super excited to be in person in classes because it helps my learning and it’s great to finish my time learning with my fellow peers. I’m okay with wearing masks if it means we can be in person. As students, we pledge to be for and with others on campus, so I’m willing to do my part to get back to more normal times.”

- Becky Kron
Senior public relations and communications double major

August 16, 2021 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

COURTESY OF CHLOE SALVESON

- The outdoor recreational basketball courts are temporarily closed due to an act of vandalism that disrupted the card reader access system. University officials are now working to determine how to create a space that is safe and accessible going forward.
- Conditional clubs Muskies and Management as well as the Fashion Club are on the docket to be considered for full club status next Monday.
- Approximately 20 clubs and organizations have dissolved due to decreased student involvement.
- All university clubs are requiring a vaccine for any travel that will take place during the school year.

Interested in writing for the Newswire?

Attend our weekly meeting each Thursday at 7 p.m. in Gallagher Student Center’s Clock Tower Lounge. This week only, join us for a fun bit of trivia before the meeting at 6 p.m. in the Arrupe Overlook.

Chaos reigns as Taliban takes over

Taliban seeks legitimacy, Biden defends U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan

BY SOPHIE BOULTER
World News Editor

The Taliban said that women’s rights would be protected according to Sharia law and that the militant group would govern Afghanistan responsibly in a Tuesday press conference.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid stated that the Taliban had “pardoned all those who have fought against us.”

He also confirmed that women would be given a role in society “under an Islamic framework.”

The Taliban, a militant group which dubs its de facto government “the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan,” is seeking international recognition as the leader of an independent state.

President Joe Biden stated on Wednesday that U.S. citizens would be evacuated from Afghanistan by Aug. 31.

In response to chaotic scenes in a Kabul airport which left at least seven people dead, President Joe Biden stood by the U.S. exit of Afghanistan on Monday.

Thousands of Afghans tried to flee the country on Monday after the Taliban’s takeover. Footage from the Hamid Karzai International Airport showed people clinging to U.S. Air Force jets leaving the capital.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

A poll taken prior to the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan indicated that 70% of Americans supported the U.S. military withdrawal of Afghanistan. Now, support for the military withdrawal is divided along partisan lines.

“This did unfold more quickly than we had anticipated,” Biden conceded.

Biden stood “squarely behind” his decision to take American troops out of the country, blaming Afghanistan’s armed forces and deposed president Ashraf Ghani for insufficiently fighting the Taliban.

“It is wrong to order American troops to step up when Afghanistan’s own armed forces would not,” Biden said.

Richard Haass, chair of the Council on Foreign Relations — the foremost think tank on U.S. foreign policy — drew parallels between the Afghanistan withdrawal and the American retreat from Saigon in the Vietnam War.

“Beyond the local consequences — widespread reprisals, harsh repression of

women and girls and massive refugee flows — America’s strategic and moral failure in Afghanistan will reinforce questions about U.S. reliability among friends and foes alike,” he said.

Senator Mitt Romney, R-Utah, characterized the withdrawal as “disastrous.”

Other politicians and analysts have come to Biden’s defence.

“President Biden understands history when it comes to Afghanistan. (Biden) made the difficult decision to not hand over this longest of American wars to a fifth president,” Senator Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said.

Supporting Biden’s withdrawal, former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel stated that the U.S. “invented reasons” to stay in Afghanistan.

“It was always, ‘We’ll be through in another year or so.’ So on and so on. Well, that got to be 20 years,” Hagel said.

Biden’s decision to end America’s longest ever war was popular with the majority of the American public. But after the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan, support for this decision has become largely partisan.

A 2021 Chicago Council Poll taken in July found that 70% of Americans supported withdrawal from Afghanistan. This included 77% of Democrats, 70% of Independents and 56% of Republicans.

A Politico poll taken from Aug. 13 to Aug. 16 found that 49% of people still support the withdrawal, including 69% of Democrats and 31% of Republicans.

Former president Ghani

fled the country on Sunday. In a statement posted to Facebook, Ghani conceded control of his country to the Taliban.

“The Taliban have won... and are now responsible for the honor, property and self-preservation of their countrymen,” he said.

Journalist Nazira Karima expressed her frustration with Ghani’s decision to flee the country.

“We don’t know where is he, and we don’t have a president,” she said.

Karima also noted that, under Taliban leadership, women in Afghanistan would lose their rights.

The Taliban will “come for people like me and kill me,” said Zarifa Ghafari, the first female mayor of the Maidan Shar province of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, America’s foreign allies have taken increasingly drastic steps to evacuate citizens from the country, including employing the military.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson sent 600 troops to assist in evacuating British nationals and Afghan nationals who assisted British forces in Afghanistan over the last 20 years.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated that using military resources to evacuate Canadian nationals is “certainly something we are looking at.”

The Lighter Side

“The Weirdest, Wackiest and Wildest News of the Week!”



Daddy short legs, horsin’ around, demented deer, mask makeouts

- Thailand’s Department of Health now recommends couples wear face masks when kissing or having sex (Aug. 9).
- The makers of Truly hard seltzer have teamed up with PepsiCo to create an alcoholic beverage known as “Hard Mountain Dew.” The product is set to be released in 2022 (Aug. 10).
- Scientists are genetically altering spider DNA to create a new arachnid, colloquially called the “daddy short legs” (Aug. 11).
- The mayor of Nagoya, Japan apologized to an Olympic softball medalist after biting the player’s medal. Though the mayor offered to pay for a replacement, the International Olympics Committee plan to replace it themselves (Aug. 12).
- Police in South Carolina arrested a man after a horse reported stolen was discovered inside the man’s bedroom (Aug. 14).
- A Florida man won one million dollars as part of his back-to-school shopping haul. While buying some school supplies for his daughter, he bought a jackpot lottery ticket (Aug. 13).
- After failing to remove the magazine from a handgun, a Texas woman accidentally shot a man while attempting to get her cat to follow the “red dot” provided by the gun’s sight (Aug. 15).
- In a memo, United Airlines told its flight attendants to stop duct-taping passengers to their seats. Instead, attendants should talk problems



Photo courtesy of pxfuel.com

“Tape should never be used,” says United Airlines to flight attendants.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

PepsiCo and Truly are teaming up to create the drink of the century.

- out with passengers (Aug. 16).
- Neighbors rescued an embarrassed deer which had a trick-or-treat bucket stuck on its face. These neighborhood helpers stated that their actions were “a whole group effort, where everyone just came together and pretty much saved that deer’s life” (Aug. 16).
- A British man has crossed the English channel on an electric surfboard. The futuristic board hovers three feet above the water (Aug. 16).
- Israel blocked a shipment of 23 tons of chocolate to Hamas.
- According to Israeli authorities, the chocolate was helping finance a Hamas militant operations network (Aug. 16).
- Tesla cars are being investigated by the U.S. government for hitting emergency vehicles seven times (Aug. 17).
- A California man is suing his condominium and his local waste management department after he was startled by a bear at his dumpster. The startled man injured himself while backing away and claims the event was precipitated by a consistent bear problem in the area (Aug. 17).

RIP to the Whitest kid we knew

A few weeks ago, a comedian by the name of Trevor Moore passed away. You may not know his name, but you’ve probably seen his work. His sketch comedy troupe, *The Whitest Kids U’ Know*, released countless viral sketches over the past 15 years.

Perhaps you’ve seen him as John Wilkes Booth, pissed off to the point of murder when President

Abraham Lincoln won’t shut up during a production of *Hamlet*. You may have seen him utterly confused as his friend presents him with a gallon of PCP. Or, you might have seen him in arguably his most famous sketch, as an ad executive pitching the poorly-named grape soda mascot, “The Grapist.”

Even if you’ve never seen his work, you’ve felt its impact. *The Whitest Kids U’ Know* set the tone for the type of comedy that defines 2010s internet culture. It had that

raw energy that you usually only find in a YouTube video, with people screaming the most ridiculous and profane stuff you’ve ever heard. But just because the humor was offensive doesn’t mean it wasn’t clever; all the members were geniuses when it came to both writing and performing comedy, especially Trevor Moore.

But now he’s gone, and it’s difficult to know how to feel. It feels wrong to say that I’m ‘affected’ by a celebrity’s death. This is a man with a wife and child, and I think I’m affected? How self-centered can I be?

I’ll never know what this loss means to his family. I’ve never lost a husband or a father, so how could I? The best I can do to reckon with this loss is try to understand what

it means to the world. This is a devastating blow to the world of comedy. Moore and the rest of the Whitest Kids were in the midst of a comeback, making appearances on Comedy Central and even penning a script for an animated feature. We’ll never know how Moore would have spent the rest of his life, but I bet he would have brought a lot of joy to a lot of people.

So what can we do about this? This question has been stuck in my brain the past few weeks. He’s gone, and so what now? What can we even do about it? What can we do about anything? If you keep following this line of questioning, you’ll eventually spiral down into a dark place. But I’ve managed to pull myself out of this pit with one simple thought: We can carry on his legacy.

I’ve never been a spiritual

guy, but I believe that if someone inspires you, and you act on that inspiration, then they live on through your actions.

I will continue to write comedy, and I will blaze my own path, just like Trevor did. I want all of you reading this, no matter what your art or profession is, to do the same.

It feels cheesy to say, and it’s the exact type of schlock that Trevor would hate, but it’s the only way I can reckon with this loss.

He always forged his own path. He was the driving force behind *Whitest Kids*, and he made it exactly how he wanted it to be. He took the style of shows like *Monty Python* and *Kids in the Hall* and made it his own. In doing so, he inspired countless comedians to follow in his footsteps — not by copying his style, but by making their own style. Simply, he inspired comedians to say, by saying, “To hell with what’s been done before. I want to create something that’s uniquely me.”

So that’s how he will live on: as an inspiration. I will

continue to write comedy, and I will blaze my own path, just like Trevor did. I want all of you reading this, no matter

what your art or profession is, to do the same. When someone is inspired by your individuality, Trevor Moore will live on through that person, and everyone that person inspires. If we all keep inspiring one another and keep being unabashedly ourselves like Trevor Moore did, then maybe we all can live forever.



Aidan Callahan is a senior English major. He is the Back Page Editor for Newswire from Wilton, Conn.

The sophomore slump

Being a sophomore is wild. No, seriously. When I moved in this past weekend, I had no clue what to expect. When you are a first-year, move-in day is aflutter with nerves, excitement, stress, joy, sadness and enthusiasm; as a sophomore, it’s kind of emotionless. There is nothing new anymore. Yes, it is exciting to see your friends again, and the anticipation of classes is still there, but the feelings are different.

There is a strange phenomenon that occurs after finishing your first year of college — the realization that all those people that told you that “time will fly” were right.

Suddenly, things that used to be justified by the naivety of being the new kid no

longer work as excuses. You can no longer put off thinking about choosing a major or where you should look for an internship, because suddenly those dates that were so far in the future are happening now and you are not prepared.

Sure, as a sophomore, you know where the good study rooms are and the quickest route to your class, but do you really think you can navigate

life outside of the bubble of your university?

The answer is probably not. It is up to you to figure out if you are OK with that. On one hand, you can never be fully prepared for what life will bring you. There will be obstacles that you can never have anticipated, but you will

deal with them and move on.

On the other hand, there are opportunities every day that can help you to excel not only in your future endeavors but also in your day-to-day life at Xavier. This is where the advantage of being a sophomore really starts to play out.

No longer do we have to worry about a new environments and new surroundings. Our energy isn’t 100% directed to the hunger games that are finding friends, clubs and good food at the Caf. Now our eyes can be opened to all the opportunities that can help us experience life beyond Xavier.

I know it can feel like last year never happened and that you are back at square one.

You are uniquely qualified to conquer life even when faced with a situation that you have never experienced... it is in those moments where your true abilities will make themselves present.

Understand that you are not alone in that feeling. Nearly everyone is in the same position.

Remember that now we have the advantage and the opportunity to use our feelings of uncertainty to challenge ourselves beyond our capabilities. This can apply to a professional or personal setting. It is important to remember that you are no longer the underdog.

If you see something you want, go get it or at least try. Don’t worry about whether or not you think you are capable of handling a challenge, because you are. You are uniquely qualified to conquer life even when faced with a situation that you have never experienced. In

fact, it is in those moments where your true abilities will make themselves present.

So, seize your sophomore year and don’t give into the classic cliché. Make your time count — not only here at Xavier, but also all facets of this year.

The university is calling this our “redemption year,” and it is well past time that we go out and accomplish exactly what we intended when we arrived last year.



Avery Strychasz is a sophomore business analytics and marketing double major. She is a staff writer for Newswire from Cleveland.

THE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Alex Budzynski

Managing Editor
Mo Juenger

Managing Multimedia Editor
Hunter Ellis

Campus News Editor
Robbie Dzierzanowski

World News Editor
Sophie Boulter

Opinions & Editorials Editor
Charlie Gstalder

Sports Editor
Joe Clark

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Kate Ferrell

Back Page Editor
Aidan Callahan

Head Copy Editor
Molly K. Hulligan

Copy Editors
Nina Benich, Stella DeMarco, Maggie Schroeder, Tess Brewer, Hannah Thompson

Staff Writers
Griffin Brammer, Tyler Clifton, Emilie Kracick, Joe Laurich,

Jacob Smith, Avery Strychasz, Ben Thomson

Online Editor
Nina Benich

Education & Enrichment Coordinator
Joseph Cotton

Show Managers
Will Pembroke
Emma Stevens
Chloe Salveson

Photography Editor
Desmond Fischer

Photographer
Erik Maahs

Adviser
John Stowell

Mission Statement
The Xavier Newswire is committed to reporting the news, as well as explaining its significance to readers. In addition, through publishing opposing viewpoints and opinions, the Newswire hopes to foster a dialogue on campus and among students, faculty and staff.

Advertising
All inquiries should be directed to the Business Manager, Melissa Navarra, by email at newswire@xavier.edu or at www.xaviernewswire.com

For Your Information
Xavier Newswire is published weekly throughout the school year, except during vacations and final exams, by the students of Xavier University, 3800 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207.

Newswire also releases online articles and a newsletter on Monday mornings and works with XUFM to produce a weekly radio show, *Xavier Newswire Live*, the *Debates and Discussions* podcast and *Inside Xavier Sports*.

Sex work is work

Content Warning:
This article contains descriptions of sexual violence.
Reader discretion is advised.

Sex work is work and is identical to every form of labor. There is a relationship between an owner (pimps, porn CEOs) and the worker (typically women). The worker is commodified, producing for the customer at a cost. The revenue goes to the owners and some is subtracted to pay the worker.

Indeed, sex work is work, no different than coal miners and accountants. Therefore, we must analyze it as such. Work is simply exploitative because it relies on the commercialization of the human body in exchange for money. Sex work is work. Therefore, sex work is exploitative.

The problem lies in people separating sex work as a special, “liberating” form of labor as soon as abuse and exploitation is brought up. The problem surfaces when Western liberal feminism “girlbossifies” the sex trade and reduces this complex issue into a matter of choice, rather than something connected with the prison systems, the rape, kidnapping, killing of prostitutes and the reinforcement of hierarchical gender

relations.

In mainstream pornography, women are beaten, bruised, cut, tortured, degraded, humiliated and endure unspeakable abuse for a wage. Many are drugged and tied, suffering for the sake of the heterosexuality of men.

“Oh yes!” Serving the desires of perverted men does not uphold patriarchal notions of how humans should express their sexuality.

“Oh yes!” Women being humiliated and objectified on camera is certainly liberating! But as fellow writer Grace Hamilton puts it in her incredible article “Porn is Not Liberation,” porn is “the dehumanization of the female body for profit.”

But, this truth is found in all of the sex industry. Most of it centers around women and femininity as the object of pleasure, as toys for the gratification of men. But all of it is inherently harmful.

The sex industry — like any other industry — is dependent on merchandising those it abuses and expands itself through other avenues. Because of this, we should not ignore the forms it takes, nor the vastness of its reach.

We must be truthful and admit that the sex trade globally includes the trafficking of children and caters to devils’ perversions and the video consumption of these vomit-in-

ducing acts. It then becomes obvious: The sex industry is violent and predatory because it commodifies sexuality, turning it into a thing of business. “Sex sells.” And to the owners of our sexuality, sex must be sold at any costs, through pornography, trafficking and the physical sale of bodies for sex.

I hear the voices of condemnation harmonizing, the songs of Westerners who can’t imagine a world where labor does not exist to be exploited. But sex work is work. Therefore, I see no problem in considering its functions globally under our capitalist system. Like all work, it must outsource and find cheap, illegal labor in order to keep itself thriving. Truly, sex work is work.

One would say that I can’t speak on behalf of those employed by the sex trade. That the bad experiences of some don’t represent the majority. If so, then can you say the same about coal mining and factory work? Undoubtedly, that is not appropriate, because you’d be diverting from the abuses that this form of wage labor holds. So, I find no reason why I should not relate the labor of the Bangladeshi prostitute to an American one.

All manual work is outsourced and will necessarily be abused. So, I find, reason why to exclude sex work from this function. Ask yourself: “Does

the sex worker who is living large speak for the abused children and women who are forced into the trade?”

One would say I am against women’s bodily autonomy or a woman’s right to her empowerment. I say I have no concern at all for what an individual woman does with her body. But a question that arises from that concern is how do you know that all prostitutes choose to be so? Because there are women who force themselves to do this in order to survive and to keep their children alive. There are women who are groomed from a young age to become sex workers and some that are trafficked.

You must also take into consideration that just because it’s someone’s choice does not automatically make it liberating. If you are being threatened with the risk of starvation and homelessness and you must sell yourself in order to survive, is it really a matter of choice? It baffles me how one can see the abuses that women in this industry endure and say that the solution is keeping the industry alive and well, but just making it “ethical.”

Finally, one would say that I have no place in this discussion. That due to my male identity, I have no say in this issue. For which I say, you are absolutely correct. As a

man it is impossible for me to even be a feminist due to my lack of the woman’s experience. But your mistake is believing that I see it only as a gendered issue. This is also an issue of capitalism, one that illuminates how necessary it is to destroy money and wage labor, as these are direct contributors to the sex trade. In that, I forfeit the concept of gender in order to defend my sisters in humanity and to criticize the trade of women, and I will continue to do so.

I don’t need to be a woman to advocate for the abolition of wage labor, nor to say that education, housing, food and medicine must be made accessible to prevent women from being forced to be tools of men’s abuses. I don’t need womanhood to say that the female body must be de-commodified and that sexuality should be freed from capitalism. I only need to be human.



Waleed Majid is a sophomore Philosophy, Politics and the Public major. He is a staff writer for *News-wire* from Cincinnati.

Does Mike Wazowski wink or blink?

Throughout time, the world has been plagued by many questions that we will seemingly never have the answer to. How far does space go on for? What is the purpose of life? And perhaps the most pressing of all: Does Mike Wazowski wink or blink?

As a one-eyed gremlin, ambiguity surrounds the meaning behind his optical movements. Many believe he is only just refreshing his corneas by blinking, while others think there is a mischievous intention behind his eyelid movement.

This debate has plagued society throughout the years and served as the template for many internet memes. As a big Wazowski fan myself, I have seen no shortage

of these. Families have been torn apart and friendships have ended at the helm of this squabble.

After many years of thinking and rationalizing the answer, I have come up with what I think will end this feud. My belief is that one does not have to pick a side in this polarizing discussion. Wazowski both winks and blinks. It is the *intention* behind the movement that really matters.

If we wanted to get technical about it, we could look up the definitions of both wink and blink.

The definition for “wink” states that it is the motion of opening and closing one eye quickly. Through this, we can establish that Wazowski winks. The defini-

tion for “blink” says that it occurs when an individual opens and closes the eye or eyes. In this way, we can also say that Wazowski blinks. So now, as the English language has told us, Wazowski both winks and blinks; the complexity comes in when you must decide which he is doing.

The actions of winking and blinking, when observed on a creature possessing one eye, look similar to one another. This is when we must take a look at the context clues presented to us in various scenes of the *Monsters Inc.* cinematic universe. If Wazowski is having a calm and relaxed conversation with Sulley, and we observe the movement of his eyelid, we can come to the rational

conclusion that he is blinking in that instance.

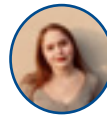
However, if he is having an intimate date with Celia at Harry Hausen’s and he closes his eye, we can safely assume he is flirting with his schmoopsie-poo.

I am ashamed of those who claim he cannot wink because he does not possess another eye to close while the other is open. How can you discredit a being just for lacking another eye when we could be more accepting and realize that with the right clues, one can tell that he is indeed winking?

Through my extensive research, I am happy with the conclusion I have finally reached. Intention is the key to solving this heated debate, and I hope this will open the

minds of many people.

The world no longer needs to go through so much turmoil concerning this simple question. Families can reunite and friends can make up. This query will no longer reside in the same category as the great unknowns. We can finally rest at ease in this new revelation that the squatly green monster with little horns and one eye winks and blinks.



Paige Wilson is a junior exercise science major. She is a guest writer for *News-wire* from Ann Arbor, Mich.

Want to respond?
Have an idea for an opinion piece?
Submissions are open!
Email: gstalderc@xavier.edu

Bengals on the brink of success

Burrow's return, defensive additions make Cincy a team to watch this season

By JOE LAURICH
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, the Bengals are relevant. After taking Joe Burrow with the first overall pick last year, the rookie showed some flashes of greatness before going down with a torn ACL. With Burrow back and healthy, the Bengals are looking to build off last year's 4-11-1 finish and really make some noise in a crowded AFC North.

Alongside Burrow's return, Cincy added Burrow's favorite receiver from his days at Louisiana State University with the speedy Ja'Marr Chase and offensive tackle Riley Reiff to improve the offense.

Defensively, the Bengals improved with the additions of defensive end Trey Hendrickson, defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi and cornerbacks Mike Hilton and Chidobe Awuzie.

With expected progress from second-year receiver Tee Higgins along with Tyler Boyd and Joe Mixon back in the fold, the Bengals have the look of an above-average team on both sides of the ball.

Still, one key issue remains: the offensive line. Reiff is assuredly an upgrade over Bobby Hart, and Jonah Williams looks like a pretty solid op-



Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

The Bengals are once again relevant as Joe Burrow returns from a torn ACL and the team brought in key free agents. A hot start to the season could propel the Bengals to their first winning season since 2015.

tion at left tackle, but the interior of the offensive line is a bit questionable.

The Bengals' problem this year isn't so much who they have, but who their opponents have. They play two games each against the Steelers, Ravens and Browns, who all feature multiple elite pass-rushers and playmakers on the defensive side of the ball.

The Bengals also have matchups against the Vikings, Bears, Packers, 49ers, Broncos and Chiefs, who all

have extremely talented front sevens.

I think the Bengals' success as a whole will mostly be determined by how they start the season. They open the year with two difficult but winnable games against the Vikings and Bears. The Bengals need to win one of those games if they expect to push for a playoff spot this year.

If they're 2-0 with momentum when they head to Pittsburgh in Week Three, they could possibly (although still not probably) steal a

game from a Steelers team that may be trying to gel its rebuilt offense.

By the Bengals' Week 10 bye, they need to be at least 5-4 to keep their playoff hopes alive. It's realistic to expect losses to Pittsburgh, Green Bay, Baltimore and Cleveland in that span, but the Bengals would have to take care of business against Minnesota, Chicago, Jacksonville, Detroit and the Jets.

If the Bengals manage to get to 5-4 at the bye, the Bengals have little margin for er-

ror in the second half, when they play the Steelers, Ravens and Browns again while mixing in games against the Chiefs, Broncos, Raiders, Chargers and 49ers.

There are enough winnable games in the back half of that schedule for Bengals fans to realistically expect nine wins.

A 9-8 season probably wouldn't be enough for the playoffs, but a winning season would be a boost heading into the offseason and the 2022 season, when the Bengals might be talented enough to once again legitimately compete for the AFC North crown.

It's possible they could get a few upset wins and finish with 10 or more, but I think nine is a more realistic number.

However, the start of the season, specifically the first two weeks against the Vikings and Bears, should set the tone for the rest of the Bengals' season.

If they drop those first two games, it'll be tougher for them to make any noise this year.

A 2-0 or even a 1-1 start for the Bengals could provide some much-needed hope throughout Cincinnati and in the halls of Paul Brown Stadium.

Reds looking to make a late-season playoff push

Votto's resurgence and an easy schedule could push the Reds past the Padres

By JOE CLARK
Sports News Editor

For the second year in a row there could be a playoff baseball team in Cincinnati this October.

At 65-55, the Reds sit 1.5 games back of the San Diego Padres for the second wild card spot in the National League. On paper, the Padres look like the better team, but the game isn't played on paper. In addition, the Padres have the hardest schedule remaining in baseball.

Meanwhile, the Reds have three games remaining against the hapless Cubs, nine games left against the Pirates and four games left against the Nationals.

With both the Pirates and Nationals struggling immensely, Cincinnati should have two very winnable series, and the team is catching fire at the right time.

The Reds entered this position thanks to all-star production from Jesse Winker and Nick Castellanos, the latter being more unexpected than the former.

With Winker on the IL, the Reds brought up Jose Barrero to replace him on the 26-man roster, and Barrero should be an upgrade for the Reds at shortstop.



Photo courtesy of creativecommons.org

Joey Votto's resurgence at the plate has led the Reds over the last few months as the team makes a push to return to the postseason. Votto picked up the 2,000th hit of his illustrious career in Monday night's win.

The Reds obviously want Winker back as soon as possible. When he comes back, rosters will have expanded, leaving room for Barrero to remain on the roster.

The Reds have also seen Joey Votto return to form in a big way, as the future Hall of Famer is slashing .284/.377/.575 with 26 home runs and 76 RBIs. Votto also collected the 2,000th hit of

his storied career in Monday night's win against the Cubs.

Pitching-wise, the Reds have gotten ace-level production from Wade Miley (10-4, 2.84 ERA) and have seen really solid seasons from Tyler Mahle (10-3, 3.58 ERA) and rookie Vladimir Gutierrez (8-3, 3.95 ERA).

Jeff Hoffman, a former top prospect in the Blue Jays and Rockies farm system, has

found a home in Cincinnati and been a stabilizing force in the rotation and out of the bullpen as well.

While Luis Castillo and Sonny Gray haven't lived up to expectations this year, the Reds have found contributions from players they didn't expect, such as Miley, Gutierrez and Hoffman. This has helped them still form a solid pitching staff.

As always, the bullpen is the Reds' biggest issue: If only someone could tell Mike Brown to invest in the Bengals offensive line and Bob Castellani to invest in the Reds' bullpen Cincinnati would be golden.

Tejay Antone, who's currently injured has been one of the only relievers on the team who's been even average (along with trade deadline pickup Mychal Givens). If the Reds collapse down the stretch, odds are that the bullpen will be the biggest reason why.

If the Reds do make the wildcard game, they'll likely play the Dodgers or Giants, which won't be an easy game.

Still, the result can't get much worse than last season's debacle of a playoff matchup, when the Reds went 22 innings without scoring a run as they went down meekly in two games to the Braves.

Even if the Reds don't end up making it into the playoff field, they're playing meaningful baseball down the stretch in August and September, which surely means something for a fanbase that hasn't seen a whole lot of good baseball at Great American Ballpark the last few years.

Newest DC action film is to die for

BY BEN THOMSON
Staff Writer

DC’s newest film *The Suicide Squad* is something of an interesting project. David Ayer’s disastrous 2016 *Suicide Squad* (not to be confused with the 2021 *The Suicide Squad*) became the poster child for Warner Brother’s mismanagement and sub-par cinematic universe.

The film damaged DC’s reputation so much, you’d think it was tattooed on Jared Leto’s forehead.

Meanwhile, over at Disney, *Guardians of the Galaxy* director James Gunn was having his own fall from grace. A series of inappropriate tweets Gunn made during his time at Troma had just lost him the third *Guardians* film and left the director with an uncertain future (though he has since been reinstated as director).

And so, our story begins: the director who lost everything and the studio with nothing to lose. Ladies and gentlemen... *The Suicide Squad*.

The Suicide Squad marks a violent, pulpy and completely ridiculous return to form for James Gunn. While the *Guardians* series was always the most unique part of Marvel’s multiverse, it left a lot to be desired. Disney clearly had Gunn on a tight creative leash, restricting him from playing with the camera or portraying any sort of violence.

In *The Suicide Squad*, a gi-

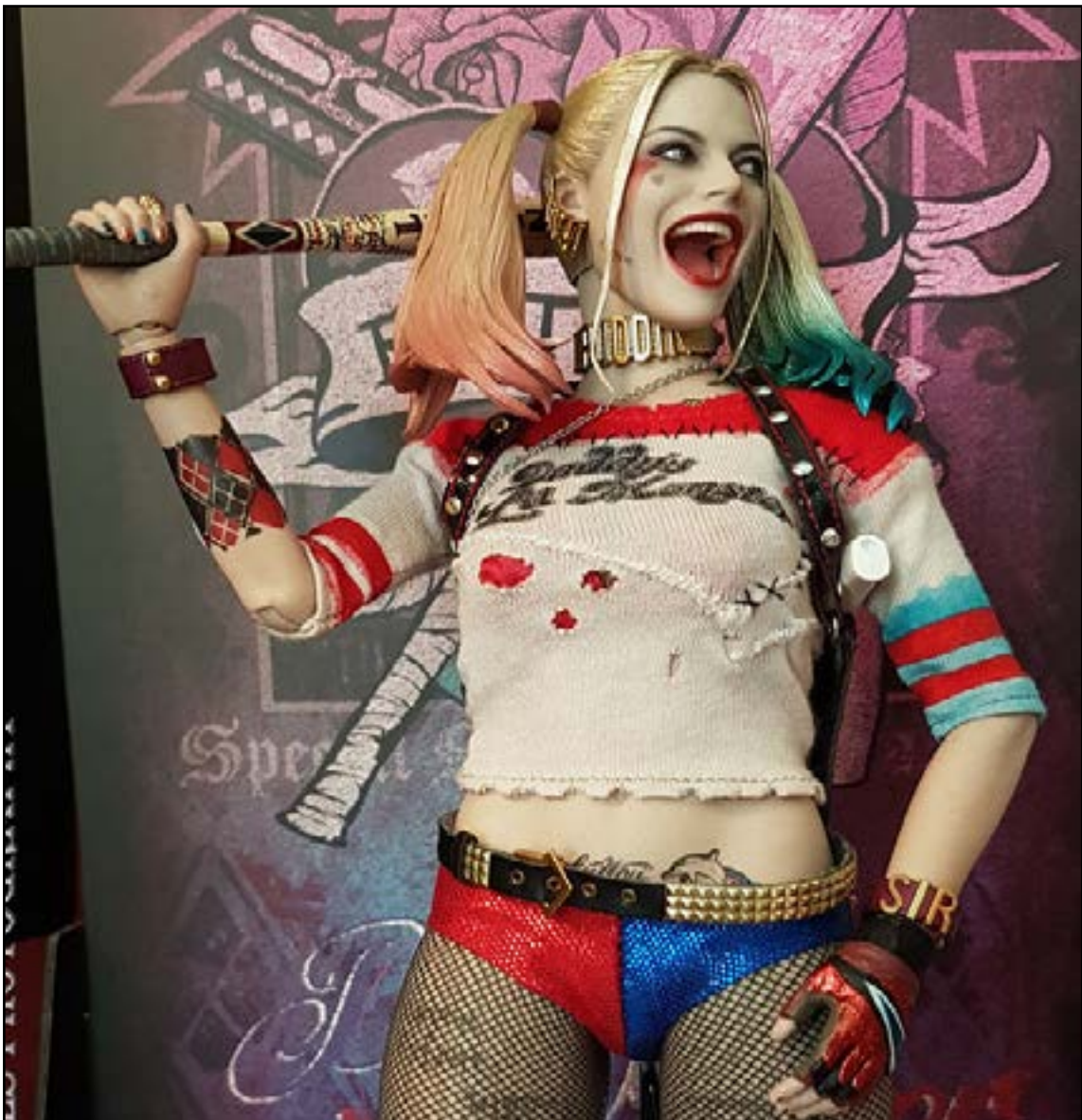


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

A new DC film, *The Suicide Squad*, has proven to be a fan favorite. Much more respected by fans than *Suicide Squad*, the new film showcases the talents of infamous director James Gunn alongside his star-studded cast.

ant shark thing (Sylvester Stallone) viciously rips a man in half, covering himself in glorious, bright red blood.

It’s a colorful film with an active camera, unafraid to be creative with how a shot

is framed or how a camera moves.

Much like Gunn’s work with Marvel, *The Suicide Squad* is a film in love with scumbags, monsters and rejects. Unlike his work at Mar-

vel, however, Gunn allows this team of freaks to be completely unhinged.

From the depressed Oedipus covered in polka-dots (David Dastmalchian) to the Proud Boy wearing a silver

toilet bowl (John Cena), these characters seem to be the furthest thing from a traditional group of heroes. They are villains, after all. But Gunn is a master at finding any character’s heart — even a violent human shark.

His sick sense of humor and twisted creativity allow for a unique empathy for creatures from which you’d sooner turn away.

Unfortunately, that empathy can be to a fault. By the end of the film, all of our morally-compromised protagonists ultimately prove that they’re “good at heart,” a sentiment that felt tacked-on and cheap.

It’s disappointing to me that DC still feels the need to turn *The Suicide Squad* into a team of heroes, when the appeal lies in the team’s twisted morals.

They are scumbag, government lackies just trying to get a reduced sentence. And yet, for some reason, the film feels the need to give stone-cold killer Bloodsport (Idris Elba) a beloved daughter. For some reason, Hollywood is afraid of complicated protagonists, even in their R-rated film. To me, this just shows a lack of faith in their audience’s intelligence.

The Suicide Squad is an explosive, unhinged and blood-splattered ride that isn’t for the faint of heart. It’s a fun way to spend a couple hours, so support your local theater and check it out!

Staff Spotify: What we’re listening to

Get to know the Newswire editorial staff with our current favorite songs



“Loretta”
by Ginger Root

This track has been on repeat all summer for me. It takes inspiration from Japanese city pop along with American disco music. It is by far the funkier breakup song I’ve ever heard. Amid the xylophone and synth, the lead singer is truly hurting.

Its vibes are easy to slot into any situation: chilling with friends, car rides or grueling study sessions. The music video also looks straight out of the 1980s.

It’s what I put on whenever I need to feel groovy immediately.

-Sebastian Aguilar, Audio Editor



“That Funny Feeling”
by Bo Burnham

If you haven’t seen Bo Burnham’s *Inside*, stop reading this article and watch it right now. It’s ostensibly a comedy special, but it can be better described as a visual album; a visual album which beautifully and hilariously reflects on the experience of living in the modern world.

Every song is fantastic, but the standout piece is “That Funny Feeling.” It makes me tear up every time.

- Aidan Callahan, Back Page Editor



“Saturday Night Inside Out”
by The Avalanches

“Saturday Night Inside Out” is the final song on The Avalanches’ 2016 album, *Wildflower*. The track combines The Avalanches’ melodic, electronic music with the poetry of David Berman, the late front man of the Silver Jews. The Avalanches’ alternate the mixer volumes of each auditory component, resulting in a track that ebbs and flows between sway-inspiring rhythm and contemplative poetry. Take some time and listen; you won’t regret it.

- Charlie Gstalder, Op-Ed Editor



“Get On Your Own”
by The Buzzcocks

Off of The Buzzcock’s 1978 album *Another Music in a Different Kitchen*, the song is a strange combination of calm harmonies and angry, rapid beats. The lyrics express the band’s perpetual dissatisfaction in their relationships and the wider world. Pete Shelley, the Buzzcock’s lead singer, mimics the instrumentals with his moaning, high-pitched voice. It’s classic punk at its finest from a criminally underrated band.

-Sophie Boulter, U.S. and World News Editor

REJECTED WHATIF...? EPISODES

BY JACOB SMITH
Staff Writer

What if Thanos smoked weed with Thor?

In this reality, Thanos meets Thor when he spends a semester studying abroad at University of Asgard. Thor introduces the uptight Titan to his favorite recreational drug, which is obtained through his brother and dealer, Loki.

Thanos develops a much more laid-back personality after blowing fat clouds with the god of thunder. Inevitably, Thanos dedicates his life to peacefully gathering the Infinity Stones in order to snap his fingers and legalize marijuana across the galaxy.

What if Hawkeye was a Breaking Bad fan?

In this reality, Hawkeye and his wife started watching *Breaking Bad* right before the events of *The Avengers*. At the Battle of New York, Hawkeye continually asks his teammates while they battle aliens if they have seen the show, telling them it's good but probably not as good as *The Sopranos*.

In *Age of Ultron*, when Tony explains how Ultron works, Hawkeye says, "Science bitch!" in a mediocre Jesse Pinkman accent. Everyone cringes.

By the time of *Civil War*, Hawkeye has added a black bowler hat to his costume. Hawkeye does not appear in *Infinity War* because he is addicted to meth.

What if Groot spoke Portuguese?

"Eu sou Groot."

What if Spider-Man was a furry?

In this reality, Tony Stark learns of Peter's furry obsession when he finds Peter's wolf suit in his room in *Civil War*. He's very supportive and helps Peter build an advanced suit, with the fursona "Wolf-Spider." With this great furry power, Peter has the great furry responsibility to hide his secret life from Aunt May.

At a convention, Peter meets a pink flamingo furry and has a casual fling with the bird. A month later when he picks up Liz for the homecoming dance, her father opens

the door and says "You must be Peter." Peter immediately recognizes his voice. It's the flamingo! He tells this to nobody.

In *Endgame*, when Peter meets Rocket Raccoon, he webs in his pants.

What if Thor dropped his hammer on Ant-Man?

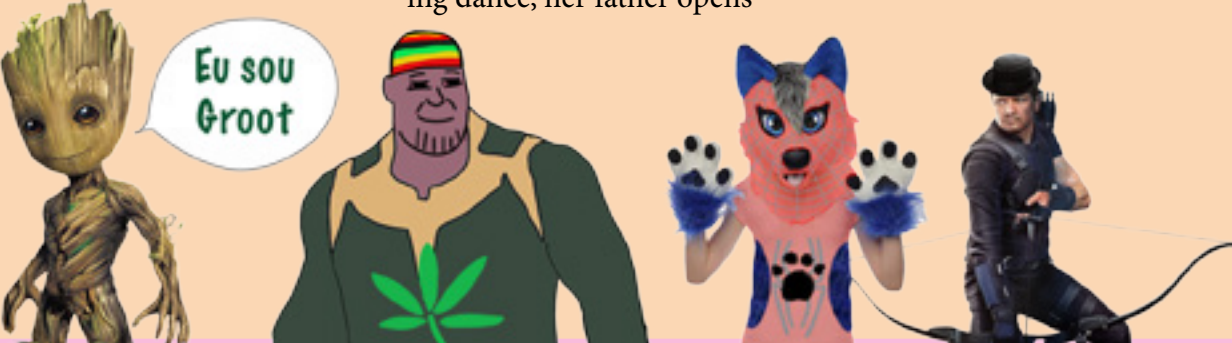
Ant-Man dies.

What if Bruce Banner was allergic to tree nuts?

In this reality, Hawkeye's wife makes cookies for the Avengers at her farm. Bruce asks her, "Are there nuts in this?" She says they are just chocolate chip cookies and do not contain any nuts. Bruce asks to see the ingredients just to make sure. The chocolate chips have a label on them that says: "Produced on shared equipment with tree nuts or peanuts." Bruce says he'd like to be on the safe side and passes on dessert.

What if Thor: The Dark World was good?

That'd be crazy.



X-O-X-U

by Griffin Brammer



Aries: The stars overheard you call syllabus week "silly week." Never do this again or they will literally chuck a meteorite at you.



Taurus: Oh, so you think you're some sort of horoscope expert 'cause you watched one astrology TikTok, is that it? Then write your own damn horoscope! I don't get paid enough for this BS.



Gemini: Avoid the quad tomorrow. The arachnid club is doing their giant spider exhibition at the same time the science club is doing their radioactive isotopes demonstration.



Cancer: Burger 513 will be closed down next week, as all the employees caught a serious case of Sugondese. For more information about this rare condition, please email callahana2@xavier.edu.



Leo: Don't accept gifts from random guys in vans outside of UDF. This may sound obvious, but you'd be surprised how dense some Leos can be.



Virgo: Dana's is looking for cooks, and the stars want you to take the job. People will call you "Mr. Spicy Balls" and not for the reason they used to call you that.



Libra: Elev8 smoke shop is giving a discount to all Xavier students this week! Check it out — they've got a pipe in the shape of Steve Buscemi's head.



Scorpio: Don't forget to stop by club day next week. Not the lame Xavier Club Day where campus clubs try to solicit your email, the cool UC Club Day where they have a bunch of sick wooden clubs on display.



Sagittarius: You're truly living in an ass-eat-ass world.



Capricorn: In the stars' grand encyclopedia of every person to ever exist, you are described simply as "just OK."



Aquarius: Don't fret if you haven't gotten all your textbooks yet: Day One is behind on some orders. Reading as a whole is on its way out anyways.



Pisces: This week, you are going to make a change for yourself that won't fit at all. It will be like the *NewsWire's* new front page header, just completely jarring and unnecessary.

Interested in writing for the NewsWire?

Attend our weekly meeting each Thursday at 7 p.m. in Gallagher Student Center's Clock Tower Lounge. This week only, join us for a fun bit of trivia before the meeting at 6 p.m. in the Arrupe Overlook.

Write for the Back Page! Get paid to write nonsense!

